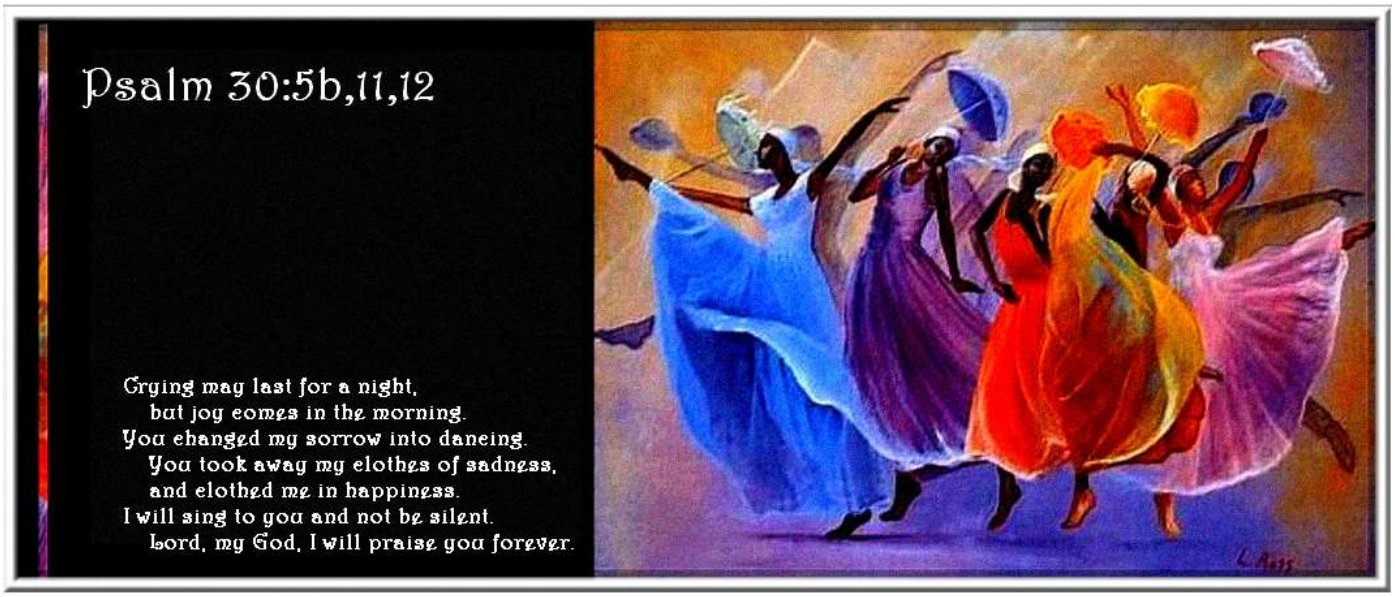
First Congregational United Church of Christ, Ypsilanti

"Follow Me"


Psalm 30:5b,11,12
Crying may last for a night,
but joy comes in the morning.
You changed my sorrow into dancing.
You took away my clothes of sadness,
and clothed me in happiness.
I will sing to you and not be silent.
Lord, my God, I will praise you forever.

https://thepsalmsbybrotheranthony.files.wordpress.com/2014/05/psalm30.jpg

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here.

July 12, 2015 10:00 am

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

An open and affirming community committed to peace and justice

WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP & LIFE TOGETHER: We invite you to participate in this community of faith. If you are a visitor for the first time, please fill out the welcome pad being passed around. We invite you to join us for Friendship Time (refreshments and conversation) at the conclusion of worship.

WE WELCOME CHILDREN so that they may come to understand the worship experience. Families are encouraged to talk about the parts of worship so children may understand and participate. During the worship service we have a time for children with the minister on the rug in the center of the worship space followed by Sunday school (September-May).

Hymns are found in the following books:
NCH *(Black, hardcover "New Century Hymnal")*
Sing! *(Black, softcover, "Sing! Prayer and Praise" songbook)*
ES *(Green, softcover "Everflowing Streams" songbook)*

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Invitation

All people are welcome to participate in this community of faith
If you have questions about becoming a member of this church, please speak with the Pastor or any member of the Community.

Prelude Steve McGhee

***Gathering Hymn** **"Like A Healing Stream"** **73 SING** - Steve McGhee

Welcome Wayne Burling

Guests, please complete a Visitor Card and place in the offering plate so we may have a record of your visit.
We hope you will join us for Friendship Time and refreshments after the service.

Thank you for worshiping with us today!

Please rise in body or spirit as you are able

Announcements Wayne Burling

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Ringing the Bell

***Hymn** **"Lead Us from Death to Life"** **581 NCH**

Call to Worship (Unison) Wayne Burling

God of all hope and blessing, hear us as we turn to you with all our hearts. Touch us with healing grace that allows us to admit our woundedness and accept the comfort you offer. Let your Spirit move among us so we may recognize your presence in one another and in our own lives. May our response to you be faithful and our praise genuine. Amen.

– Adapted From "Led by Love", Lavon Bayler

LISTENING FOR GOD

Old Testament Reading Psalms 30 (Psalter) Steve McGhee/Carol Hall

Hymn **"Jesus, Jesus, Oh, What a Wonderful Child"** **136 NCH**

Children's Time *children are invited to come forward*

New Testament Reading Matthew 4:12-17 Wayne Burling

Sermon **"Ahhhh Light!"** Carol Hall

***Hymn** **"Hope For the Children"** **INSERT**

CONVERSING WITH THE HOLY ONE

Prayers of the People Carol Hall

All are invited to offer a prayer, testimony, praise report or prayer request at this time. Please limit your sharing to one or two sentences and remember confidentiality issues.

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (Unison) -- Alternate Version Carol Hall

When we say the Lord's Prayer, please feel free to follow the traditional form or use language that feels comfortable to you, e.g. Mother, Creator, God, Friend, or Realm, Kindom, Wisdom.

Offering this prayer in unison brings us together and the words illustrate our common journey

Padre y Madre nuestroqueestás en los cielos,
Santificado sea tuNombre.
Vengatureino.
Hágasetuvoluntad en la tierracomo en el cielo.
Danos hoy nuestro pan de cadadía.
Perdonanuestrasofensas,
asícomotambiénnosotrosperdonamos a los quenosofenden.
No nosdejescaer en la tentación y líbranosdel mal.
Tuyos son el reino, el poder y la gloriapor los siglos de los siglos,
Amén.

O God, you love us like a good parent, and are present in every aspect of our existence. May your nature become known and respected by all. May your joy, peace, wholeness and justice be the reality for everyone as we live by the Jesus Way. Give us all that we really need to live every day for you. And forgive us our failures as we forgive others for their failures. Keep us from doing those things which are not of you, and cause us always to be centered on your love. For you are the true reality in this our now, and in all our future. In the Jesus Way we pray. Amen.

-- David Sorrill, cited on http://rainbowcathedral.wordpress.com/prayers

RESPONDING TO OUR CALLING

Invitation to the Offering (Unison) — Carol Hall

The world is God's creation, and so are we. All that we have is from the gifts of God, meant as a blessing for all to share. In these moments, we recognize our responsibility to manage these blessings for the redemption of God's people. Let us give thoughtfully and completely. Amen.

Offertory — Steve McGhee

*Doxology — "Take My Gifts" — 562 NCH

Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me,
Gave me light and food and shelter, Gave me life and set me free,
Now because your love has touched me, I have love to give away,
Now the bread of love is rising, Loaves of love to multiply!

Prayer of Dedication** ***(Unison) Wayne Burling

With joyous praise and dancing spirits, we dedicate this offering, acknowledging our covenant responsibility to share your word and love all your people. In gratitude for the gospel of salvation, we pledge our first loyalty and our highest faithfulness as disciples of Jesus Christ. Thank you for the wisdom and insight we have received. Help us now to live according to the best we know, in Jesus' name. Amen.

– Adapted from "Led by Love", Lavon Bayler

DEPARTING WITH PRAISE

***Hymn of Departure** **"Let Justice Flow like Streams"** **588 NCH**

***Benediction** Carol Hall

Postlude Steve McGhee

(Please be seated for the Postlude)

Passing the Peace *Share a greeting with your neighbor as we transition to our snack.*

First Congregational United Church of Christ
PO Box 980413
218 North Adams Street
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48198
734-482-6980
website: ***www.ypsiucc.com***

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God is still speaking,
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Our Volunteers	Today: July 12th	Next Sunday: July 19th
Usher	Lyle Molter	Wayne Burling
Preaching	Carol Hall	Carol Hall
Worship Leader	Wayne Burling	Kelsie Molter
Worship Set-up	Wayne Burling	Glenda Horvath
Acolyte	Kelsie Molter	Hunter Turner
Friendship Time	Melanie Harner	Glenda Horvath

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING: Our next Council meeting will be held July 21st at 4:30 pm. All are welcome.

NEXT MEETING OF THE OPEN AND AFFIRMING COALITION: Our next meeting will be held at St. John's UCC in Grand Rapids on August 1st, 2015 10:00 am – 12:00 noon.

FREDDY MENCIA: The hard work to keep Fredy Mencia here in Ypsilanti with his family had a small victory on Friday. A team of advocates from the Ypsilanti church and the Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights made another trip to Detroit Immigration and Customs Enforcement in support of Mr. Mencia; he was granted a delay in his deportation until July 15th. We rejoice in this small victory.

WICIR and his attorney are working hard to get a more permanent solution for him and his family.

This will require considerably more legal work. In order to pursue options that would resolve the impending separation of Fredy from his wife and children and return him to violence in Honduras, we are raising funds to help him offset his legal expenses. He was required to take a leave of absence from the job he has held for 15 years as we work for a solution.

It is imperative that we raise the necessary funds to mount this next effort on his behalf. You can help in several ways:

1. Contribute to his legal defense fund by making checks payable to the Ypsilanti 1st Congregatioinal UCC and indicate on the check that it for Fredy Mencia's legal fund.

2. Blast out to your contacts the information about Fredy and encourage others to join this effort. Any help that we can give to support these legal fees is of course appreciated This link will take others to the GoFundMe that WICIR has set ujp.
3. Watch for updates. It may be necessary to begin telephoniing people on his behalf. It may be necessary to rally in support of the family. There may be other needs.

God Is Still Speaking,

PASTORAL CARE EMERGENCIES: If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact Glenda Horvath, 734-904-0420

CONGREGATIONAL CARE: Kindly remember in your prayers our members and friends who are sick and/or shut-in. Send a card or note to lift their spirits and yours as well.

Fran Pebbles' address: *American Homes Carpenter, 3470 Carpenter Rd., Apt 332, Ypsilanti, MI 48197. Phone: 734-975-0987*

Sally Dusbiber's *address'*: *Silver Maples of Chelsea, Room 1211, 100 Silver Maples Dr., Chelsea, MI 48118. Sally's direct phone line is 734-433-2396 and the Silver Maples line is 734-475-4111, x217.*

IMMIGRATION MINISTRY (WICIR): For information about what's happening with Immigrant Rights and ***Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights*****,** or if you are interested in learning ways to help, please contact Margaret Harner at 734-483-3464 or through their Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/WICIR .

MICHIGAN OPEN & AFFIRMING COALITION: For information about what's happening with **Michigan Open and Affirming Coalition,** or if you are interested in joining us, please contact Wayne Burling at 734-377-0696. More information can be found on their website http://www.mi-ona.org or on facebook at https://www.facebook.com/groups/onami/

WASHTENAW REGIONAL ORGANIZING COALITION: "First Congregational is a co-founding institution of the new local "organization of organizations" **WeROC (Washtenaw Regional Organizing Coalition).** In many ways, WeROC is a larger illustration of the values and mission we try to live out at First Congregational. The diverse faith congregations and labor and community organizations that make up WeROC are, at our core, focused on intentionally reweaving the frayed fabric of community -- at a time when forces are at work every day to keep us fragmented, suspicious of each other, feeling isolated and on our own. We are showing by example that people from many backgrounds and perspectives can, even today, come together in powerful ways around our common values and *actually change* unjust public policies. WeROC is a part of the S.E. Michigan organization MOSES and the national Gamaliel Foundation.

See Tad Wysor (tadwysor@gmail.com, 734 883 3225) for more on how First Congregational is connecting with current WeROC issues and actions.

OUR WEBSITE: http://www.ypsiucc.org Let Wayne know if you have any additional items to be added. He could use lots more pictures. Also check out and like our Facebook page. https://www.facebook.com/pages/First-Congregational-United-Church-of-Christ-Ypsilanti/115695119913 .

KROGER FUNDRAISER: **HAVE YOU *RE-REGISTERED* WITH KROGER!!** Everybody that shops at Kroger and has a shopper's card ***MUST*** register. ***Last Year's registration expires May 1st*** and you are not getting credit for you purchases until you re-register for the current year.

Go to www.kroger.com and click "**REGISTER**". Follow prompts to register your frequent shopper card number. Then link to the **Community Rewards** site and register with our church. Our number is **83263**, or you can find our name in drop down list. Any questions contact Barbara Garland, bargarland@yahoo.com, 734-662-5803.